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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Appropriation 2005/06	$31,513,100
Expenditure 2005/06	$27,527,400
Unencumbered balance 2005/06	$3,985,700
Appropriation 2006/07	$35,478,700
Projected expenditure 2006/07[a]	$32,472,000
Estimated unencumbered balance 2006/07[a]	$3,007,000
Proposal submitted by the Secretary-General for 2007/08	$40,683,600
Recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2007/08	$40,305,500

[a] Estimates as at 30 April 2007.

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I. Introduction

1. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 49 below would entail a reduction of $378,100 in the proposed budget of the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy (UNLB) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/61/752). The Committee also makes a number of observations and recommendations regarding the administration and management of the Logistics Base and opportunities for further savings.

2. The general report of the Advisory Committee on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations contains its views and recommendations on a number of cross-cutting issues. Consequently, in the paragraphs below, the Committee deals with resources and other items specifically relating to UNLB.

3. The documents used by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of UNLB are listed at the end of the present report.

II. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

4. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/299, appropriated to the special account for UNLB an amount of $31,513,100 gross ($29,280,000 net) for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. Expenditure for the period totalled $27,527,400 gross ($25,678,300 net).

5. The unencumbered balance of $3,985,700 gross ($3,601,700 net) for the period 2005/06 represents in gross terms 12.6 per cent of the appropriation for the maintenance of the Base, including savings under:

(a) National staff ($2.9 million) owing to the delayed recruitment of 64 national staff, approved in the 2005/06 budget to convert individual contractors performing core functions. As a result of this delay, the actual average vacancy rate was 23 per cent instead of the 2 per cent budgeted. There were corresponding reductions for staff assessment ($0.4 million) and common staff costs ($0.9 million). The Committee notes, however, that the vacancy rate for national staff has come down substantially. At the beginning of the period, in July 2005, it stood at 42.4 per cent, coming down to 4.8 per cent, with 8 posts unfilled as of June 2006;

(b) Facilities and infrastructure ($0.6 million) as a result of reduced requirements for utilities due to the delayed installation of equipment and migration of data for the UNLB Disaster Recovery Centre. In addition, savings were recorded under security services owing to the fact that the San Pancrazio storage facility was not utilized as a result of the relatively low level of strategic deployment stocks during the period;

(c) Communications ($0.2 million) and information technology ($0.2 million) owing to favourable terms obtained for new service contracts as a result of re-bidding and competitive pricing obtained from the new provider for technology support services;

(d) Other supplies, services and equipment ($0.2 million), owing largely to delays in the implementation of the logistics support services contract for UNLB and a new strategic deployment stocks insurance policy for more comprehensive insurance coverage, offset in part by higher requirements for loss on exchange due to the appreciation of the euro against the United States dollar.

6. These savings were offset, in part, by higher than budgeted expenditure for general temporary assistance ($96,700), due largely to an insufficient provision in the 2005/06 budget for such assistance to cover staff on sick leave and maternity leave.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that strategic deployment stock items with an estimated value of $30.6 million were shipped to various peacekeeping missions. This represents a much lower volume than anticipated. Expenditures for the replenishment of strategic deployment stocks amounted to $47.8 million, including replenishment of items shipped during the prior period.

8. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the information presented in the performance report (A/61/679) on individual objects of expenditure can be found in the discussion of the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 in section IV below.

9. The Advisory Committee notes that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/264, requested the Secretary-General to submit a detailed report on after-service health insurance benefits to the Assembly at its sixty-third session. **Pending a decision by the General Assembly, the Committee recommends that the full amount of other income and adjustments amounting to $2,380,100, as well as a portion of the unencumbered balance amounting to $239,400 for UNLB for the period 2005-2006, which had been proposed for meeting after-service health insurance liabilities, be credited to Member States.**

III. Information on performance for the current period

10. The Advisory Committee was provided with expenditure data for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 as at 30 April 2007 (see annex I to the present report). Expenditure for the period as at 30 April 2007 amounted to $26,467,000 against an apportionment of $35,479,000 gross. The Secretariat estimates expenditures for the period from 1 May to 30 June 2007 at $6,005,000. For the period 2006/07, therefore, expenditures are estimated at $32,472,000, or some 92 per cent of the apportionment. This would result in an unencumbered balance of $3,007,000 at the end of the financial period.

11. The Committee was informed that, as at 30 April 2007, the incumbency for UNLB was as follows:

Category	*Posts authorized*[a]	*Posts encumbered*	*Vacant*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
International staff	47	35	12	26
National staff	169	162	7	4

[a] Represents the highest authorized strength for the period.

IV. Proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008

A. Mandate and planned results

12. The Advisory Committee notes that the presentation of the framework is based on a single support component with the key expected accomplishment of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations. Outputs are aligned to the proposed new concept of operations and grouped under the main components of the new organizational structure: (a) the United Nations Logistics Base Support Services for the management and administration of the Base; (b) the services focused on supporting peacekeeping missions, including Logistics Services and Communications and Information Technology Services; and (c) the Tenant Units administered by UNLB under the operational control of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee notes that, with the establishment of the United Nations Logistics Base Support Services, functions such as personnel, finance, procurement, general services and facilities management, which service the Tenant Units and the Logistics Base itself, would be consolidated under one umbrella. This contrasts to the present structure, under which these functions are dispersed across Administrative Support and Technical Support Services.

13. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report on the use of UNLB to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services (A/60/715, para. 3), pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/299, the Secretariat conducted a review of its peacekeeping operations and identified the functional areas that could be situated at UNLB to provide efficient and economical services to the peacekeeping operations during the periods 2006/07 and 2007/08. The General Assembly took note of the proposals outlined by the Secretary-General to expand the Logistics Base and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, for its decision, detailed information on the concept of operations, financial and legal implications and expected benefits that might arise from the expansion with the budget for 2007/08 (resolutions 59/299 and 60/267).

14. The Advisory Committee notes that a comprehensive organizational review of UNLB, led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, was carried out from July to October 2006. The review resulted in a new concept of operations and organizational structure, which is described in the budget document (A/61/752, paras. 8-17). Organization charts of the current and proposed organizational structure of the Base are also provided in the annexes to that document.

15. The proposed new organizational structure is built on three pillars: UNLB Support Services, which provide support to the Logistics Base; Logistics Services and Communications and Information Technology Services, which support the peacekeeping operations; and a new concept of "Tenant Units". The Chief Administrative Officer would continue to have overall responsibility for the three pillars. However, the Advisory Committee notes that the Tenant Units would be administered by the Base, but be placed under the operational control of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Secretary-General also proposes, in the context of a pilot project, to create an off-site Recruitment and Outreach Unit of the Personnel Management and Support Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations under United Nations Logistics Base Support Services.

16. **The Advisory Committee notes that the new concept of operations proposes a separation of the activities related to the support of UNLB and those in support of field missions. The presentation of the new concept of operations lacks clarity and should be simplified. The creation of new offices, renaming and changing names of offices and sections, the movement of posts from one office/section to another, the changing grade levels while suggesting redeployment/creation and abolishment of posts have been set out in a way that does not facilitate the understanding of the real budgetary implications and cost-effectiveness of the proposals being put forward.**

17. **The Advisory Committee considers that there is a need for a longer-term perspective on the role and future development of UNLB that would address, inter alia, the basis for placing certain functions at the Base. In a previous report, the Secretary-General (A/60/715) identified a number of stand-alone activities. The support provided by host authorities should also be factored in. The Committee recommends that such a longer-term perspective should be presented to the General Assembly in the context of the 2009/10 budget proposals. The Committee is of the view that decisions on the establishment of logistics functions should be based on an analysis that takes into account the projected associated costs and overheads, weighed against potential benefits, including savings and productivity and other qualitative gains.**

B. Resource requirements

18. The proposed budget for UNLB for the period 2007/08 (A/61/752) amounts to $40,683,600 gross ($37,993,700 net), representing an increase of $5,204,900, or 14.7 per cent, in gross terms over the amount of $35,478,700 apportioned for the period 2006/07. The budget is established on the basis of the proposed new concept of operations and structure, including three new Tenant Units and the pilot project for personnel management. It provides for a total of 55 international and 181 national posts, as well as six temporary national staff positions funded under general temporary assistance.

Civilian personnel

Category	*Approved for 2006/07*	*Proposed for 2007/08*	*Variance*	*Encumbered*[a]	*Vacant*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
International staff	47	55	8	35	12	26
National staff	169	181	12	162	7	4
Temporary positions	—	6	6	—	—	—

[a] As of 31 March 2007.

19. A summary of the posts requested for conversion, establishment and abolition is presented in annex II to the present report. A detailed description of the changes proposed by office/section/unit is provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNLB for 2007/08 (A/61/752) under the various components of the budget proposal.

20. As shown in the table above, as of 31 March 2007 12 international and seven national posts were vacant, with a vacancy rate of 26 per cent for international staff. **In the light of this vacancy situation, the Advisory Committee requests UNLB to rejustify the continued requirement for posts that are vacant for over a year in the context of the 2008/09 budget.**

(a) Pilot project for the Personnel Management and Support Service

21. The proposal of the Secretary-General for a pilot project to test the concept of an off-site Recruitment and Outreach Unit of the Personnel Management and Support Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for checking the references of candidates are outlined in the budget document (A/61/752, paras. 17 and 27-30). This proposal would entail the creation of six temporary positions to be funded from general temporary assistance.

22. **The Advisory Committee acknowledges that the reference-checking function remains essential. As this function is but one of the elements of the staffing function, the Committee is of the opinion that the proposal for the pilot project should be considered in the context of the support account. It therefore recommends against acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General at this time and will look into this matter in the context of its report on the proposed budget for support account for 2007/08.**

(b) Tenant Units

23. During the period 2006/07, a Training Delivery Cell was established at UNLB, as well as a Regional Aviation Safety Office to service the Logistics Base, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), in accordance with the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see also A/59/347). However, the Advisory Committee notes from the budget document (A/61/752, sect. V.B) that recruitment for the two new functions was delayed and that it is expected that the Tenant Units will only be operational towards the end of the fiscal period. An assessment of these initiatives could therefore not be carried out and this will be done during the period 2007/08.

Strategic Air Operations Centre (see A/61/752, paras. 77-83)	*Five new posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Field Service, 1 General Service) and a provision of $79,700 for non-post resources*

24. The Secretary-General indicates that the increase of United Nations air assets in many field missions necessitates the strengthening of the aviation programme for commercially contracted and Government-provided air assets in order to maximize the use of those assets and to enhance air safety. The Strategic Air Operations Centre would be responsible for analysing aircraft usage reports to ensure efficient fleet management, contract performance and compliance with the United Nations commercial charter agreements. It would have oversight over all Department of Peacekeeping Operations inter-mission flights worldwide. It would also provide an aircraft tracking system, including a global flight following system for the United Nations aviation fleet of 228 aircraft in the peacekeeping missions with a total of some 120,000 flight hours and transportation of 723,600 passengers and 140,900 tons of cargo.

25. Additional information was provided to the Advisory Committee on the distribution of functions between the Regional Aviation Safety Office at UNLB, which serves UNMIK and UNOMIG, and the Strategic Air Operations Centre, as well as between the headquarters of the Air Transport Section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Strategic Air Operations Centre and the Aviation Sections of the missions. According to the Secretariat, the functions of the respective sections do not overlap but are complementary.

26. The Advisory Committee was informed that the main benefits expected from the establishment of the Centre related to the centralized and optimized utilization of some 15 aircraft and that it was expected that from the period 2009/10, this could potentially lead to annual savings in the range of $10 million in the total aviation budgets of the missions. **The Committee expects concrete savings to be reflected in future budget proposals, starting in 2009/10.**

27. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General to create five posts (3 international and 2 General Service) and to make a provision of $79,700 for non-post resources.**

Geographical Information System Centre (A/61/752, paras. 89-93)	*Eight posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 Field Service, 5 General Service) and non-post resources of $312,300*

28. The Secretary-General indicates that the Geographical Information System (GIS) Centre would provide geographical information services for all peacekeeping missions, including on-site assistance to missions in the start-up phase, and would improve field mission operational readiness.

29. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in his report on the functional areas that could be located at the Logistics Base (A/60/715, para. 10), the Secretary-General had indicated that the Centre would be staffed by eight personnel (1 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 Field Service and 3 local staff, augmented by 2 international contractors) and proposed that the two Professional posts and one Field Service post be redeployed from existing missions (the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB)). However, upon request, the **Committee was informed, that the current staffing situation in these missions had not yet allowed for any redeployment of personnel. The Committee regrets that assumptions made in the report on efficient and economical communications and information technology services (A/60/715) did not materialize (see also para. 32 below).**

30. Additional details on the respective roles of the Geographical Information System Centre, the mission GIS units and the Cartographic Section at Headquarters were provided to the Committee. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations assured the Advisory Committee that their functions are complementary and do not overlap. The Geographical Information System Centre in UNLB would create a repository with base maps that the mission's GIS units could build upon with customized information such as troop locations, evacuation areas and road conditions. The Headquarters Cartographic Section provides maps and analysis to the Security Council and the Secretariat and also oversees and coordinates the activities of the mission GIS units, including the proposed UNLB Geographical Information System Centre.

31. The Advisory Committee recognizes the critical importance of providing precise maps and other cartographic products to support decision-making and the work of the United Nations. From the additional information provided to it, the Committee also notes that the production of customized maps is a complex process involving many actors and is based on rapidly evolving GIS technology and standards. **The Committee is of the view that a successful implementation of the proposals put forward will require a clear statement on the goals of the Centre, its resources, methods of work and the roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved. It therefore requests that a plan be prepared ensuring the efficient implementation and coordination of GIS-related activities and resources at Headquarters, UNLB and the missions. It should include specific measures for avoiding duplication as well as targets for the efficiency and productivity gains expected as a result of the establishment of the GIS Centre. Pending the submission of such a plan and a definitive proposal for the establishment of the Centre, the Committee recommends that the following posts requested be established as temporary positions to be funded from general temporary assistance:**

(a) Creation of a position of Chief, GIS Centre (P-4);

(b) Creation of a position of GIS Officer (P-3);

(c) Creation of a position of GIS System Officer (FS);

(d) Creation of five National General Service positions (NGS).

The Committee also recommends approval of $312,300 for non-post resources.

Engineering Design Unit (A/61/752, paras. 84-88)	*Four posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 NGS) and a provision of $131,100 for non-post resources*

32. The Engineering Design Unit would provide engineering planning and design services for all peacekeeping missions and Headquarters clients. It would also carry out liaison with and visit field missions to support the design of major engineering projects. The Advisory Committee recalls that, in reporting on the functional areas that could be situated at UNLB (A/60/715, paras. 7 and 8), the Secretary-General had indicated that the establishment of a Central Design Unit would reduce or eliminate the requirement for such skills in many missions and would standardize the design and drafting of accommodation and other engineering work. At that time, the Secretary-General envisaged that the Unit would be staffed by four personnel (1 P-4 (Chief), 1 P-3 and 2 local staff) and that Professional post requirements would be met through the proposed redeployment of posts from existing missions (the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)). The Advisory Committee was informed, however, that it was not possible to redeploy personnel from UNMIL or UNMIS at the present time. **The Committee notes that this is yet another instance where the proposed redeployment did not materialize.**

33. **It is important to determine efficiency and productivity gains that may be achieved as a consequence of the establishment of the Engineering Design Unit. Details on the gains realized as well as further potential savings should be provided in the context of the budget proposal for 2008/09. Pending the availability of such an analysis, the Advisory Committee recommends approval**

of the following temporary positions to be funded through general temporary assistance:

(a) Creation of a position of Chief, Engineering Design Unit (P-4);

(b) Creation of a position of Design Engineer (P-3);

(c) Creation of 2 national General Service positions (NGS).

34. The recommendation of the Advisory Committee regarding the overall staffing requirements for the three Tenant Units proposed to be established are summarized in the table below.

	P-5-P-4	*P-3-P-1*	*Field Service*	*Subtotal international staff*	*National staff*	*Total posts*	*Temporary positions*
Proposed new Tenant Units							
Strategic Air Operations Centre	1	2	1	4	1	5	
Geographical Information System Centre	1	1	1	3	5		8
Engineering Design Unit	1	1	—	2	2		4
Total	**3**	**4**	**2**	**9**	**8**	**5**	**12**

(c) UNLB Services

35. In the following paragraphs, the Advisory Committee deals with the restructuring of the UNLB functions, including the United Nations Logistics Base Support Services, Logistics Services and Communications and Information Technology Services. These three services would be placed under the administrative control of the Chief Administrative Officer.

36. As indicated in the budget document (A/61/752, para. 16), the reorganization of the organizational structure is complex. The net effect of the proposed creation, abolishment, redeployment and movement of posts between the newly created, renamed, reconfigured offices/sections/units would be the reduction of one international post and the increase of four national posts. The table below summarizes the impact of the changes proposed on the overall staffing structure.

	P-5-P-4	*P-3-P-1*	*Field Service*	*Subtotal international staff*	*National staff*	*Total posts*	*National staff temporary positions*
UNLB Services							
United Nations Logistics Base Support Services	2	1	—	3	23	26	6
Logistics Services	—	(3)	(1)	(4)	(19)	(23)	
Communications and Information Technology Services	2	—	(2)	—	—	—	
Subtotal UNLB Services	**4**	**(2)**	**(3)**	**(1)**	**4**	**3**	**6**

37. It is proposed to create four national posts, including a Procurement Assistant and a Vender Roster Assistant in the Procurement Section, one Vehicle Workshop Dispatcher in the Transport Section and one Administrative Assistant in the Office of the Chief, Administrative Services. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of these proposals.**

38. With regard to the international posts, the overall staffing component would be reduced by three Field Service and 2 P-3 posts, offset by the creation of four new Professional posts at a higher grade (2 P-4, 2 P-5). The organization chart containing the proposed new structure in the budget document (A/61/752, annex, sect. A) indicates that a P-5 post would be created to head the office of the Chief of Administrative Services and that the post of Chief, Communications and Information Technology would be reclassified from P-4 to P-5.

39. **The Advisory Committee is concerned that the proposed structure creates a new management layer, with a tendency towards an overinflated grade structure, which is not justified by greater activity and workload. Under the circumstances, the Committee is of the opinion that such a restructuring exercise, which is based on the reconfiguration of existing functions, should not only be cost neutral, but should also not inflate grade structure. Given the fact that the reorganization proposed would lead to the creation of five higher-level Professional posts with a net reduction of one Professional post, this is clearly not the case. The Committee is of the view that the overall grade structure of the staffing component of UNLB should be maintained at current levels. At this stage, therefore, the Committee recommends acceptance of the proposals for the relocation/readjustment of posts that do not entail a change of grade. It recommends against the proposals for reclassifying posts at a higher level or the establishment of new posts at a grade level higher than those that are to be abolished.**

40. **Pending a decision by the General Assembly on the funding of after-service health insurance benefits, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of $237,500 under common staff costs of international staff in the proposed budget of UNLB for the period 2007-2008.**

Operational costs

(United States dollars)

Expenditures 2005/06	*Apportionment 2006/07*	*Projected expenditure up to 30 June 2007*	*Projected savings for 2006/07*	*Proposed 2007/08*
15 596 400	18 098 500	17 952 000	146 000	22 364 000

41. The estimated operational requirements for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 represent an increase of $4,265,500, or 23.6 per cent, in comparison with the apportionment for the period 2006/07. Major causes of the higher costs include: an increase of $1,268,500, or 31.7 per cent, under information technology for equipment for the Strategic Air Operations Centre; higher provisions under official travel in the amount of $431,000 (218.8 per cent) owing to the fact that travel requirements of the training delivery cell that were previously funded through the support account would now be included in the UNLB budget; $224,400 under

general temporary assistance for the six temporary positions for the personnel pilot project; and higher resources under facilities and infrastructure, mainly for the upgrade of the satellite hub in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Auditors (see para. 44 below) and the acquisition of generators for the UNLB Disaster Recovery Centre.

42. **The Advisory Committee has made recommendations, in paragraphs 22, 31 and 33 above, for deferring the establishment of temporary positions requested, or for establishing posts requested as temporary positions to be funded through general temporary assistance. It recommends that the resource requirements under operational costs be adjusted accordingly.**

V. Other matters

43. The Advisory Committee requested additional information on the actions undertaken by UNLB to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and in its report (A/61/264 (Part II), para. 51) and those of the Board of Auditors in its report (A/61/5 (Vol. II)) on the financial report and audited financial statements of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services pertain essentially to weaknesses in the management of the strategic deployments stocks. The Committee was provided with additional information on the actions being taken to address these issues and the status of the implementation of these recommendations, which are attached to the present report in annex III.

44. The Board of Auditors had also made a recommendation that UNLB plan for an adequate structure to serve as a central satellite hub for all peacekeeping operations (A/61/5 (Vol. II), para. 364). The Advisory Committee notes that UNLB plans to construct a consolidated satellite communications facility, including construction of a 600 square metre satellite farm building capable of hosting engineers, systems and workshops, in compliance with ISO 27001 standards.

45. The Advisory Committee was informed that office buildings, workshop and warehouse structures are provided by the Government of Italy under the terms of a memorandum of understanding on the use of the facilities at Brindisi, established initially in 1994 and in a first addendum of December 2001. The estimated value of this non-budgeted voluntary contribution during the period 2007/08 would amount to $2,070,700. The Committee was informed that the Italian Government had agreed to provide additional buildings on the Base with suitable office space for the additional Tenant Units to be located at Brindisi. The method of handover of these buildings to the United Nations is outlined in a second addendum to the above-mentioned memorandum of understanding, which has been agreed upon, in principle, by the parties. Upon conclusion of this addendum, the buildings in question will be refurbished. The non-budgeted voluntary contribution of the Government of Italy will be adjusted according to the second addendum in future UNLB budget documents.

VI. Implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the functioning of the existing mechanisms for rapid deployment

46. In response to General Assembly resolution 60/266, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/61/795) on the implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the existing mechanisms for rapid deployment of equipment to new and upcoming United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that report, the Secretary-General indicated that a separate report on disaster recovery and business continuity will be submitted at a later date.

47. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/795).**

VII. Conclusion

48. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 is indicated in paragraph 23 of the performance report (A/61/679). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the unencumbered balance of $3,985,700, as well as the income and adjustments in the amount of $2,380,100, be credited to Member States in a manner to be determined by the Assembly (see also para. 9 above).**

49. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNLB for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 is indicated in paragraph 109 of the proposed budget (A/61/752). **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's request, subject to the observations and comments made in paragraphs 39, 40 and 42 above. In addition, taking into account its observations in those paragraphs, the Committee recommends that the estimated budget requirements of $40,683,600 for the maintenance of the Logistics Base be reduced by $378,100. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Assembly appropriate an amount of $40,305,500 gross ($37,643,000 net) for the maintenance of UNLB for the 12-month period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.**

Documentation

- Performance report on the budget of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the award of contracts for procurement: report of the Secretary-General (A/61/679)
- Budget for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008: report of the Secretary-General (A/61/752)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi (A/60/787)

- General Assembly resolutions 60/267, 60/266 and 59/299
- Implementation of the strategic deployment stocks, including the functioning of the existing mechanisms for rapid deployment: report of the Secretary-General (A/61/795)
- Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on peacekeeping operations (Part two) (A/61/264 (Part II))
- Use of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi to provide efficient and economical communications and information technology services, as well as other services, for United Nations peacekeeping and Headquarters clients: report of the Secretary-General (A/60/715)

Annex I

Current and projected expenditures of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007			*Projected 1 May to 30 June 2007*				
	Apportionment	*Total expenditure*	*Unencumbered balance*	*Projected*	*Total expenditure, including projected*	*Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2007*	*Variance (Percentage)*	*Reasons for variance*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(2)+(4)*	*(6)=(1)-(5)*	*(7)=(6)÷(1)*	
Military and police personnel								
Military observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Military contingents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
United Nations police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Formed police units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	
Civilian personnel								
International staff	6 603	4 617	1 986	968	5 585	1 018	15	Savings as a result of higher vacancy rate than budgeted
National staff	10 777	7 541	3 236	1 508	9 049	1 728	16	Savings as a result of higher vacancy rate than budgeted
United Nations Volunteers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	**17 380**	**12 158**	**5 222**	**2 476**	**14 634**	**2 746**	**16**	
Operational costs								
General temporary assistance	98	77	21	20	97	1	1	
Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Consultants	420	187	233	230	417	3	1	
Official travel	197	140	57	55	195	2	1	
Facilities and infrastructure	4 870	3 845	1 025	820	4 665	205	4	Savings resulting from closure of the San Pancrazio depot

	1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007			Projected 1 May to 30 June 2007				
	Apportionment (1)	*Total expenditure* (2)	*Unencumbered balance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Projected* (4)	*Total expenditure, including projected* (5)=(2)+(4)	*Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2007* (6)=(1)-(5)	*Variance (Percentage)* (7)=(6)÷(1)	*Reasons for variance*
Ground transportation	719	663	56	50	713	6	1	
Air transportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Naval transportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Communications	4 244	2 963	1 281	1 250	4 213	31	1	
Information technology	4 007	3 468	539	535	4 003	4	0	
Medical	445	213	232	230	443	2	0	
Special equipment	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other supplies, services and equipment	3 099	2 753	346	339	3 092	7	0	
Quick-impact projects	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	**18 099**	**14 309**	**3 790**	**3 529**	**17 838**	**261**	**1**	
Gross requirements	**35 479**	**26 467**	**9 012**	**6 005**	**32 472**	**3 007**	**8**	
Staff assessment income	2 535	1 527	—	241	1 768	767	30	
Net requirements	**32 944**	**24 940**	**9 012**	**5 764**	**30 704**	**2 240**	**7**	
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total requirements	**35 479**	**26 467**	**9 012**	**6 005**	**32 472**	**3 007**	**8**	

Annex II

Summary of proposed changes in staffing for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

	Approved 2006/07 budget					*Proposed 2007/08 budget*	
Office/Section/Unit	*Total number of approved posts*	*Vacant posts*	*Vacancy rate (Percentage)*	*Number of proposed new posts*	*Level*	*(a) Redeployment, same functions* *(b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions* *(c) New post, introduction of new functions* *(d) Abolishment of post* *(e) Reclassification of post*	*Description*
UNLB Support Services							
Office of Chief Administrative Services	Not available. The Office was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-5	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Chief, Administrative Services
				+2	NGS	1 redeployment (from Personnel Section), partly same functions, same level; 1 new post, introduction of new functions	Administrative Assistant (2)
				+3			
Personnel Section				-1	NGS	1 redeployment (to Office of Chief Administrative Services), partly same functions	Personnel Assistant
	11	**1**	**9.1**	**-1**			
Procurement Section				+2	NGS	2 new posts, introduction of new functions	Procurement Assistant; Vendor Roster Assistant
	9	**0**	**0.0**	**+2**			
General Services Section				+1	P-4	1 redeployment (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), partly same functions, from P-3 level to P-4 level	Chief, General Services Section
				+9	NGS	8 redeployments (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), same functions; 1 redeployment (from Medical Clinic), same functions	8 (Property Management Assistant, Inventory and Supply Assistant (2), Claims Clerk, Administrative Clerk, Inventory and Supply Clerk (3); Nurse
	6	**0**	**0.0**	**+10**			

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Proposed 2007/08 budget: Number of proposed new posts	Level	(a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
Medical Clinic				-1	NGS	1 redeployment (to General Services Section), same functions	Nurse
	1	**1**	**100.0**	**-1**			
Facilities Management Section	Not available. The Section was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-3	1 redeployment (from present Engineering Office), partly same functions, same level	Chief, Facilities Management Section
				+12	NGS	12 redeployments (from present Engineering Office), same functions	9 (Structural Worker, Mason, Electrician (2), Electro-mechanical Technician, Supervisor, Plumber, Carpenter, Mechanic) from Building Maintenance Unit; 3 (Draughtsman, Draughting Assistant (2)) from the present Project Management Section
				+13			
Logistics Services							
Office of the Chief Logistics Officer				-1	P-3	1 abolishment and redeployment of functions to Chiefs of the proposed new Logistics Operations and Supply Sections as well as Transport and Engineering Sections	Logistics Officer
	4	**0**	**0.0**	**-1**			
Supply and Warehousing Office				-1	P-4	1 redeployment (to Logistics Operations Section), partly same functions, same level	Chief, Supply and Warehousing Office
				-2	P-3	1 redeployment (to Supply Section), partly same functions, same level; 1 redeployment (to General Services Section), partly same functions, from P-3 level to P-4 level	Chief, Supply Unit; Chief, Property Control and Inventory Unit

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Proposed 2007/08 budget: Number of proposed new posts	Level	(a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				-2	FS	1 redeployment (to Logistics Operations Section), same functions; 1 redeployment (to Supply Section), same functions	Chief, Receipt and Inspection Unit; Supply Assistant
				-39	NGS	8 redeployments (to General Services Section), same functions; 19 redeployments (to Logistics Operations Section), same functions; 12 redeployments (to Supply Section), same functions	19 (Administrative Clerk (5), Shipping Assistant, Shipping Clerk (2), Receiving Assistant (3), Lead Person (2), Working Leader (3), Inventory and Supply Assistant (2), Warehouse Supervisor) to Logistics Operations Section; 12 (Administrative Clerk (2), Lead Warehouse Worker, Technician, Inventory and Supply Clerk (2), Inventory and Supply Assistant, Warehouse Worker (5)) to Supply Section; 8 (Property Management Assistant, Inventory and Supply Assistant (2), Claims Clerk, Administrative Clerk, Inventory and Supply Clerk (3) to General Services Section
	44	**1**	**2.3**	**-44**			
Logistics Operations Section	Not available. The Section was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-4	1 redeployment (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), partly same functions, same level	Chief, Logistics Operations Section
				+2	FS	1 redeployment (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), same functions; 1 redeployment (from present Air Operations Office), same functions	Chief, Receipt and Inspection Unit; Chief, Air Operations Officer

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Proposed 2007/08 budget: Number of proposed new posts	Level	(a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				+22	NGS	19 redeployments (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), same functions; 3 redeployments (from present Air Operations Office), same functions	19 (Administrative Clerk (5), Shipping Assistant, Shipping Clerk (2), Receiving Assistant (3), Lead Person (2), Working Leader (3), Inventory and Supply Assistant (2), Warehouse Supervisor) from present Supply and Warehousing Office; 3 (Transportation Assistant, Aviation Ramp Controller, Administrative Assistant) from present Air Operations Office
				+25			
Supply Section	Not available. The Section was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-3	1 redeployment (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), partly same functions, same level	Supply Officer
				+1	FS	1 redeployment (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), same functions	Supply Assistant
				+12	NGS	12 redeployments (from present Supply and Warehousing Office), same functions	Administrative Clerk (2), Lead Warehouse Worker, Technician, Inventory and Supply Clerk (2), Inventory and Supply Assistant, Warehouse Worker (5)
				+14			
Transport Section				-1	FS	1 abolishment and redeployment of functions within Transport Section	Transport Officer
				+1	NGS	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Vehicle Workshop Dispatcher
	23	**2**	**8.7**	—			
Engineering Section				-1	P-3	1 redeployment (to Facilities Management Section), partly same functions, same level	Engineer Officer

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Proposed 2007/08 budget: Number of proposed new posts	Level	(a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				-12	NGS	12 redeployments (to Facilities Management Section), same functions	Draughtsman, Draughting Assistant (2), Structural Worker, Mason, Electrician (2), Electro-mechanical Technician, Supervisor, Plumber, Carpenter, Mechanic
	37	**3**	**8.1**	**-13**			
Air Operation Office				-1	FS	1 redeployment (to Logistics Operations Section), same functions	Chief, Air Operations Officer
				-3	NGS	3 redeployments (to Logistics Operations Section), same functions	Transportation Assistant, Aviation Ramp Controller, Administrative Assistant
	4	**1**	**25.0**	**-4**			
Communications and Information Technology Services							
Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology				+1	P-5	1 reclassification of a post, from P-4 to P-5 level	Chief, Communications and Information Technology Services
				-1	P-4	1 reclassification of a post, from P-4 to P-5 level (above)	Chief, Communications and Information Technology Services
				-2	P-3	1 abolishment and redeployment of some of the functions (to Network Systems Section); 1 redeployment (to Network Systems Section), same functions	Chief, Information Technology Unit; Information System Officer
				-9	FS	6 redeployments (to Network Systems Section), same functions; 1 redeployment (to Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit), same functions; 2 abolishments and redeployments of some of the functions (to Systems Support Section)	6 (Telephone Supervisor, WAN Supervisor, Satellite Network Supervisor, Satellite Technician (2), Telecommunications Technician) to the Network Systems Section; Network Control Centre Supervisor to the Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit; Chief, Communications Unit and Information Technology Coordinator abolished

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Number of proposed new posts	Level	Proposed 2007/08 budget: (a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				-33	NGS	7 redeployments (to Network Systems Section), same functions; 3 redeployments (to Systems Support Section), same functions; 23 redeployments (to Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit), same functions	7 (Communications Technician (4), Satellite Technician, Programming Assistant (2) to Network Systems Section; 3 (Programming Assistant (3) to Systems Support Section; 23 (Communications and Information Technology Services Maintenance Supervisor, Telecommunications Assistant, Telecommunications Technician, Computer System Clerk, Information Technology Technician (5), Communication Technician, Telecommunications Technician (2), Computer Information System Assistant, Computer Information Assistant, Communications and Information Technology Services Logistics Supervisor, Inventory and Supply Assistant (6), Inventory and Supply Clerk (2) to Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit
	47	**2**	**4.3**	**-44**			
Network Systems Section	Not available. The Section was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-4	1 new post, introduction of new functions, some functions redeployed from present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology	Chief, Network Systems Section post to manage and coordinate the overall operation of the Section
				+1	P-3	1 redeployment (from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology), same functions	Information Systems Officer post is moved from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Number of proposed new posts	Level	Proposed 2007/08 budget: (a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				+6	FS	6 redeployments (from Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology), same functions	6 (Telephone Supervisor, WAN Supervisor, Satellite Network Supervisor, Satellite Technician (2), Telecommunications Technician) posts are moved from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology
				+7	NGS	7 redeployments (from Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology), same functions	7 (Communications Technician (4), satellite technician, programming assistant (2) posts are moved from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology
				+15			
Systems Support Section	Not available. The Section was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-4	1 new post, introduction of new functions, some functions redeployed from present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology	Chief, Systems Support Section
				+1	P-3	1 new post, introduction of new functions, some functions redeployed from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology	Information Security Officer
				+3	NGS	3 redeployments (from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology), same functions	Programming Assistant (3)
				+5			
Integrated Maintenance, Campus Support and Assets Management Unit	Not available. The Unit was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	FS	1 redeployment (from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology), same functions	Network Control Centre Supervisor

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Proposed 2007/08 budget: Number of proposed new posts	Level	(a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				+23	NGS	23 redeployments (from the present Office of the Chief, Communications and Information Technology), same functions	Communications and Information Technology Services Maintenance Supervisor, Telecommunications Assistant, Telecommunications Technician, Computer System Clerk, Information Technology Technician (5), Communication Technician, Telecommunications Technician (2), Computer Information System Assistant, Computer Information Assistant, Communications and Information Technology Services Logistics Supervisor, Inventory and Supply Assistant (6), Inventory and Supply Clerk (2)
				+24			
Strategic Air Operations Centre	Not available. The Centre was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-4	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Chief, Strategic Air Operations Centre
				+2	P-3	2 new posts, introduction of new functions	Aviation Operations Officers (2)
				+1	FS	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Air Operations Assistant
				+1	NGS	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Aviation Assistant
				+5			
Engineering Design Unit	Not available. The Unit was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-4	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Chief, Engineering Design Unit
				+1	P-3	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Design Engineer

Office/Section/Unit	Approved 2006/07 budget: Total number of approved posts	Vacant posts	Vacancy rate (Percentage)	Proposed 2007/08 budget: Number of proposed new posts	Level	(a) Redeployment, same functions (b) Redeployment, partly same functions or abolishment and move of functions (c) New post, introduction of new functions (d) Abolishment of post (e) Reclassification of post	Description
				+2	NGS	2 new posts, introduction of new functions	Draftsman; Engineering Assistant
				+4			
Geographical Information System Centre	Not available. The Centre was not included in the UNLB structure in 2006/07			+1	P-4	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Chief, Geographical Information System Centre
				+1	P-3	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Geographical Information System Officer
				+1	FS	1 new post, introduction of new functions	Geographical Information System Administrator
				+5	NGS	5 new posts, introduction of new functions	Geographical Information System Assistant (3); Geographical Information System Assistant (2)
				+8			
Total							
International				**+8**			
National				**+12**			

Abbreviations: FS = Fields Service; NGS = National General Service.

Annex III

Response of UNLB to the findings and recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of Auditors

A. Office of Internal Oversight Services

(A/61/264 (Part II))

Findings/recommendations	*Current status*
Strategic deployment stocks	
The audit of the strategic deployment stocks (AP2004/600/02) in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations highlighted several programme weaknesses, including the following:	The strategic deployment stocks policy directive for efficient management of deployment stocks was approved by the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Mission Support, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and issued in February 2007, and the strategic deployment stocks accounting guidelines were approved by the Controller and issued in July 2006.
• Policies and procedures for managing strategic deployment stocks were not updated and adjusted in a timely manner. For example, the accounting guidelines for the stocks were issued two years after the concept's launch, resulting in the incomplete recording of transactions and an additional workload for maintaining, updating and reconciling the records of the stocks.	
• Galileo, a $3.4 million automated inventory system, did not track the deployment, replenishment and reconfiguration of the strategic deployment stocks and was not integrated with the accounting and procurement systems. The Department noted that the Galileo system tracked the movements and physical status of the stocks and that an interim tracking tool had been developed to monitor their replenishment. Based on the experience gained with that tool, user requirements had been drawn up and presented to the Galileo Development Group to assist in developing a new Galileo module to centrally monitor and account for strategic deployment stocks.	On the basis of experience gained using the interim Lotus Notes-based replenishment tool, user requirements have been drawn up and a new module is under development. Pilot implementation is anticipated in October 2007.
• Neither performance indicators nor evaluation tools were developed to measure the effectiveness of the deployment of strategic deployment stocks (para. 51).	The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has developed and implemented the material resource plan mechanism to plan and deploy the strategic deployment stocks based on the needs and requirements of each mission.

Findings/recommendations	*Current status*
	The UNLB 2005/06 performance report, 2006/07 approved budget and 2007/08 budget proposal include indicators of achievement to measure the efficiency of issuance of strategic deployment stocks to missions.

B. Board of Auditors

(A/61/5, vol. II, chap. II)

Findings/recommendations	*Current status*
While the Board recognized that cargo consolidation could be cost-effective, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed with the Board's recommendation that it reduce shipping time lags so as not to hamper the operations of the recipient field missions (para. 223).	Cargo consolidation is undertaken to achieve the best value for money expended on freight of items to missions. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is cognizant of the urgent requirements and will undertake the consolidation of cargo only when it does not have an adverse impact on the immediate operational needs of the mission.
The Board followed up on its previous recommendation that the Administration expedite the promulgation and implementation of its policies and procedures on strategic deployment stocks as a matter of priority. The Administration informed the Board that the policy directive document is under review at the Controller's Office. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations anticipates that the process will be completed and the final policy directive will be issued during the fourth quarter of 2006 (para. 224).	The strategic deployment stocks policy directive was approved and promulgated in February 2007.
The Board recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations keep track and match the replenishment of strategic deployment stocks through the Galileo system starting at the time of the issuance of the material release order instead of actual receipt of goods by the recipient-missions, or a satisfactory alternative replenishment process (para. 227).	According to the strategic deployment stocks accounting guidelines of July 2006, the replenishment of equipment will take place only after the equipment has been shipped and shipping documents are available. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is following the guidelines. Regarding the tracking of shipments through the Galileo system, the Office of Mission Support has developed an interim Lotus Notes-based tracking tool for monitoring the replenishment of strategic deployment stocks. An updated version of this tool has been adopted by the self-accounting units to improve the replenishment process. Based on the experience gained with this tool, user requirements have been drawn and presented to the Galileo Development Group in order to pursue the development of a new Galileo module to centrally monitor and account for

Findings/recommendations	*Current status*
	strategic deployment stocks transactions. Pilot implementation is anticipated by October 2007.
The Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed with the Board's recommendation that it continue efforts to conduct inspections of shipments of strategic deployment stocks within the established time frame (para. 230).	The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is working closely with UNLB to ensure further reduction is achieved in the lead time of the receipt and inspection process.
	The UNLB 2005/06 performance report, 2006/07 approved budget and 2007/08 budget proposal include indicators of achievement to measure the efficiency of issuance of strategic deployment stocks to missions.
The Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed with the Board's recommendation that it institute measures to provide sufficient protective facilities on electric generators to prevent their exposure to external elements that could affect their operational capability (para. 233).	The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has initiated the necessary corrective measures to address the most pressing storage and maintenance issues. Provisions of $80,000 have been included in the UNLB 2007/08 budget proposal for the purpose.

(A/60/5, vol. II, chap. II)

Findings/recommendations	*Current status*
The Board reiterates its recommendation that the Administration expedite the promulgation and implementation of its policies and procedures on strategic deployment stocks as a matter of priority (para. 240).	The strategic deployment stocks policy was promulgated in February 2007.
The Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed with the Board's reiterated recommendation that UNLB, in conjunction with the Department, follow up and obtain acknowledgement of receipt of items shipped to missions and monitor the shipments to ensure the timely acknowledgement of receipt (para. 245).	On 24 July 2006, UNLB implemented new procedures to follow up and monitor the reception of items by missions. As a result of the new procedures, UNLB has significantly reduced the backlog of pending acknowledgement.
The Board recommends that UNLB, in consultation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, develop suitable operating procedures, in line with good practices, to expedite the receiving and inspection process (para. 249).	UNLB has implemented the receiving and inspection procedures promulgated in the property manual.
	The UNLB 2005/06 performance report, 2006/07 approved budget and 2007/08 budget proposal include indicators of achievement to measure the progress made.